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Apple's Quick Time: The new Macintosh multimedia software system

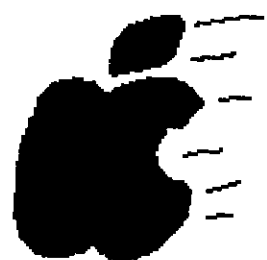
BASICALLY A new system for the integration of digital media, Quick Time is the working ground for developers to come up with multimedia programs and tool kits.

Jonathan Seybold, publisher of the Digital Media Seybold Report said: "Quick Time gives the Macintosh a substantial edge over the PC in incorporating sound and video. It is a surprisingly open and extensible software architecture for dynamic media."

Quick Time's flexibility will encourage lots of innovation and exploration among third-party developers."

This software architecture has introduced a new file format - a "movie" which consists of synchronized data such as sound, video, and animations. Of course, this very capable system welcomes CD-ROM storage capabilities and hence, digitized video sequences can be played back in real time. Built into the system is what Apple describes as the Human Interface Standards which makes basic functions very easy to operate. These take the form of VCR-like on-screen buttons and graded sliders. Incidentally, a 68020 CPU and Color Quickdraw are the requirements for Quick Time version 1.0. But the more common 68000-based machines will have something to look forward to, as Quick Time is also being developed for them.

It seems like Apple is on the right track, with a great prelude to the age of multimedia, as Quick Time demonstrates the endless opportunities we will have in multimedia implementation.



IBM & National Semiconductor unveil LAN partnership

IBM (International Business Machines) is pushing through the nineties with yet more alliances and agreements. The latest is the partnership announced with National Semiconductor which should focus on the technology of local area networks (LANs) which link personal computers and workstations in offices and factories. National Semiconductor is a leading manufacturer of LAN semiconductor chips. The aim of this agreement is to make networking easier.

IBM is the dominant supplier of Token-Ring networking products, the strongest competitor of Ethernet LAN products which National is the leader in. This means that IBM and National jointly represent 60 percent of the \$2bn networking equipment market.

This agreement should increase the sales of their networking products and create an alternative industry standard.

Electronically chosen candidates

CHOOSING CANDIDATES in any kind of elections is usually subject to many external effects like the impression induced by the media or matters of relations and interests or simply the charisma of the candidates which enables them to sway the public to their side. Computer scientists have presented a computer aided solution to this problem. These scientists view elections as they would view any other non-scientific phenomena. They find it to be inefficient as a system and would like to provide a more efficient substitute. The substitute is a computer system which chooses the proper candidates after being fed certain information. Sounds too strange? Well, it's a system which has already been developed by a couple of American scientists and which has recently been put to the test.

The process comprises the following steps: First, the candidate is required to fill in a questionnaire including various questions of importance to the voters and necessary for the post. The candidate provides short and concise answers to which the questionnaires are collected. Then, copies of these questionnaires are distributed to the voters who are expected to state whether they agree or disagree with the candidates' views on the topics presented. This means that the voters' role in the electoral process is reduced to simply presenting their opinion rather than direct election of chosen representatives. These copies are also collected and all the information is fed into the computer.

Once the data entry is finished, the computer only requires a few minutes to provide the final results which are based around the degree of uniformity in opinion between the candidate and the voters. This means that the final list of chosen candidates should include those whose views find most acceptance amongst the public.

Researchers have already tested this method by comparing the results of a normal electoral process with the computer-aided process and have found that results in each case were totally different. Still, the list of candidates chosen by the computer were found to be more in agreement with the voters' opinion than those chosen through normal elections. The research showed that the main reason for this was the computer's neutral position in judging candidates. Is the system a success and should we push ahead with developing computer systems that choose those elected to office?

The answer can be problematic. Our experience with computers has proven to us how easy it is to manipulate computer systems. Computers don't really make mistakes, but if an experienced vandal tampers with a complex computer system the results can be hazardous. It's a little bit like computer-aided theft. Trespassers can hack into the system and change the names of the candidates, the number of votes or even alter the way the system chooses the best candidate. It's true that such a process requires a lot of effort, but it can be done. Suddenly, your very intelligently efficient system is choosing the wrong candidate.

To put it simply, such a system would most definitely come down on time and effort put into the electoral process by committees responsible for supervision and counting votes. However, it should not be applied to major elections because of the implications connected to a "minor" computer malfunction. It is not only determining the future of a few candidates, but the future of a society. ■

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The Star

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AMMAN, 20 — 26 FEBRUARY 1992, VOLUME 2, NUMBER 50

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JORDAN

W E E K



A non-conventional look at

Jordanian affairs:

- *Rumors about the government
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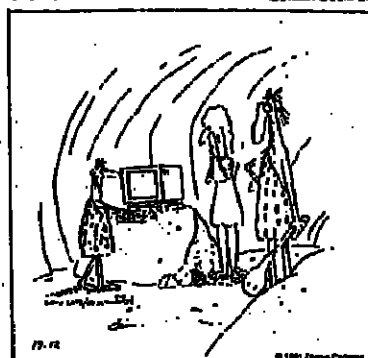
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by David Youngless
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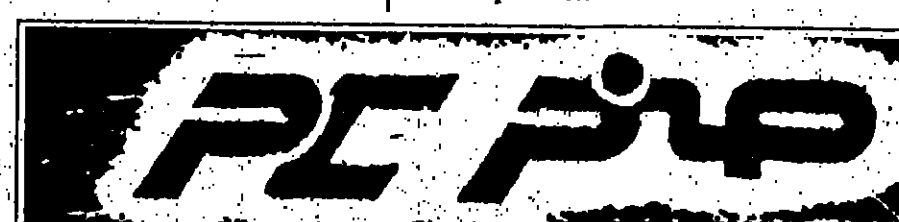
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Q: A friend of mine and I are rather interested in being able to communicate via modems. I own a Gateway 2000 and he has an Acer, both IBM PC compatibles, and we've been told that we shouldn't have any compatibility problems. However, we were wondering about the legal aspect of such communication.

Abdallah Mustafa,
Jabal Amman

Our modem expert answers:

A: Well, Abdallah, as far as the law is concerned, the use of modems or any other unlicensed form of telecommunication by individuals in Jordan is illegal. Another important point is that modems were prohibited from entering the country as of October 1990 and have remained so until today. Of course, some big corporations use them but they are generally regarded as a threat to military security. I don't know if you and your friend could even get your hands on a modem in the country. If it is absolutely necessary, I suggest you file a request with the Telecommunications Corp. (TCC) or meet with officials responsible.



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The Star

JORDAN

WEEK

Rumors about the government

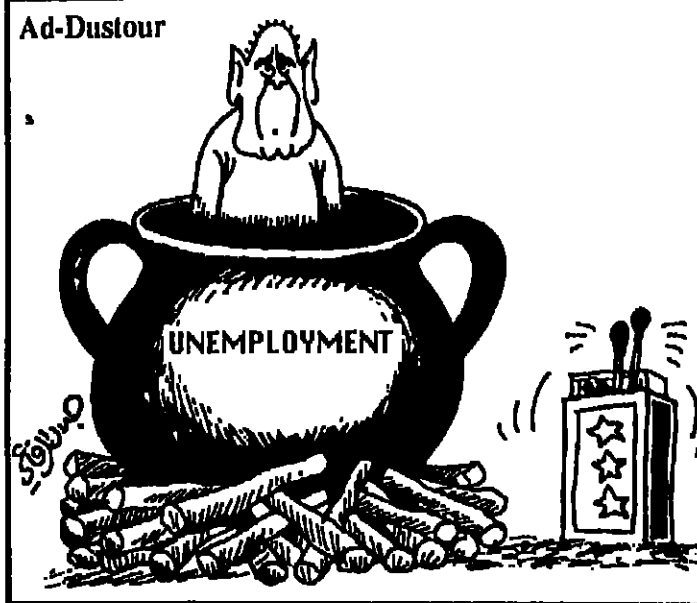
TWO rumors are now circulating in Jordan regarding the three-month-old government of Sharif Zaid ben Shaker. The first has to do with the government's intention to raise the prices of gasoline and fuel oil (solar) selectively so as not to hurt low-income citizens. Subsidies will be reviewed so that they benefit poor Jordanians only. Official sources described the coming arrangements as the "bitter pill" one takes in order to get better. The second rumor has to do with a limited government re-shuffle that may include the portfolios of planning, finance, interior and Awqaf. No confirmation of this

has been made to date, but a government source said that prime ministers are entitled to make changes in their cabinet, and if Sharif Zaid decides to re-shuffle, it will be for good reasons.

Jordan a dry country?

THE Lower House Legal Committee has recommended that the House approves a law prohibiting the making, selling and buying and consumption of alcoholic beverages in Jordan. Thirty-two deputies made the proposal which was discussed by the committee on Sunday. Two committee members, deputies Fares Al Nabulsi and Mohammad Al Tarawneh, voted against the propo-

Ad-Dustour



sition. The committee's recommendation was scheduled to be discussed by the Lower House in its Wednesday session. If the House votes in favor, the government will then prepare a draft law to ban liquor, making Jordan a dry country.

Preparing for Ramadan

JORDAN is preparing for Ramadan, which according to lunar calculations will begin on 6 March. Already the Minister of Supply, Mr Mohammad Al Saqaf, is assuring citizens that enough quantities of frozen meat and chicken will be available in the market throughout the holy month. The consumption of various foodstuff rises considerably during Ramadan, making it an ideal period for foodstuff merchants and importers to do business. Citizens also complain of price increases for most essentials during the fasting season. The Ministry of Supply will circulate pamphlets to merchants calling on them to observe official prices and to stick to a reasonable profit margin. Mr Saqaf has warned Jordanians that some vegetables like tomatoes and cucumbers may be in short supply during Ramadan because of the damage incurred by the bad weather to Jordan Valley farms in the past weeks. Jordanians, Mr Saqaf said, must adapt by switching to canned and frozen vegetables. But even though Ramadan will come in the cool month of March, prices, it appears, will be simmering hot.

Early releases for draftees

THE government is studying the possibility of suspending the Conscription (draft) Law for an indefinite period of time. It is also considering taking measures to reduce the term for those who are currently doing their two-year service. Sources said that some conscripts have already received orders of early release. These steps are taken at a time when the government is reducing public spending in accordance with the provisions of the economic adjustment program.

JD 20,000 for theaters

THE Minister of Culture, Dr Mahmoud Al Samra, has responded to the open letter sent to him by Senator Amin Shuqair (Jordan Week 13 February) regarding the state of the Jordanian theater. Dr Al Samra agreed with Mr Shuqair to the importance of theater and the positive message of the Nabeel Mashini Theater and the Abu Awad Troupe. He noted that his ministry has been doing its best to promote theater in Jordan. He mentioned the holding of the First Festival of Jordanian Theater last June. Dr Al Samra said his ministry was keen on correcting the erroneous perception of theaters as night clubs (as applied by the Income Tax Dept.).

20 FEBRUARY 1992

Dr Al Samra said the ministry has allocated a JD 20,000 budget to support theater activities this year. While admitting that this sum was negligible, Dr Al Samra said that it is more than last year's budget by one third.

Unemployed pilots

UNEMPLOYMENT is not restricted to engineers, doctors and the graduates of intermediate colleges in Jordan. It includes about 100 commercial pilots according to Al Rai newspaper. It said that the fate of these skilled pilots was discussed during the elections of the Association of Air Transport Employees which took place this week. Association sources said most of these pilots lost their jobs as a result of the Gulf Crisis since most of them were employed in Kuwait and other Gulf countries. The sources said that some of these pilots had applied for ground duties with Royal Jordanian (RJ), but that their applications were rejected.

One question to nine ministers

LOWER House deputy Mr Mohammad Al Dardour for Al Ramtha has presented a letter to nine government ministers asking them if they had appointed any of Al Ramtha residents in 1991 in their ministries. The question was sent to the ministers of interior, social development, supply, labor, agriculture, youth, finance, municipal and rural affairs and education. The object of the deputy's question is not known, but it seems he has information that says that none of these ministers had in 1991 appointed Al Ramtha residents in their ministries. Government sources do not believe that there was a conspiracy in 1991 to deny Al Ramtha residents work opportunities with the government.

Bitter medicine

AD-DUSTOUR's local columnist, Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud, has called on the government to replace an estimated 120,000 foreign workers in Jordan with a Jordanian workforce as the only viable option to end the Kingdom's chronic unemployment problem. He accused governmental and non-governmental bodies of avoiding this option during the past years. But now that thousands of Jordanian families are falling below the poverty line, Mr Daoud said, the government must apply the painful medicine of replacing expatriate workers with needy Jordanian labor in these difficult times.

Senators differ over law

THE Upper House is having tough time passing the money changers' draft law. During this week Jordanian senators held two meetings and approved 11 articles of the proposed law. The House will meet again on Thursday to review the remaining articles. So far a number of amendments have been made and the law is expected to be sent to the Lower House. Money changers, whose activities were suspended in 1988 by the government of Mr Zaid Al Rifai, are not happy with the law which, they say, gives the Central Bank too much influence over their activities.

FEBRUARY 1992

FOR THE RECORD

By Ahmad Shaker



■ The government is considering the creation of an independent ministry for environment to give additional attention to issues of environmental pollution and to carry out a national strategy for the protection of the environment by tying it to economic development.

■ The government has accepted the terms of an agreement between Royal Jordanian (RJ) and Arthur Anderson consultants. The American company will advise RJ on financial and operation matters. A ministerial committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Transport, Ali Suhelmat has been formed to oversee the agreement. The value of the agreement has not been disclosed.

■ Jordan will buy 40,000 tons of Indian wheat at \$116 per ton and 15,000 tons of rice at \$275 per ton from India, which will be paid in Jordanian potash, The Star has learned.

■ The government will suggest to the World Bank developing the Investment and Development Fund by making it an independent corporation. The World Bank had previously offered to extend technical and financial help to the fund if it does become an independent corporation. Meanwhile, the Central Bank has called on commercial banks to set up investors' guiding units to help foreign investors understand more about investment opportunities in Jordan.

JORDAN

THE STAR 3

ADC calls on US to reject loan guarantees

By Francis Mazoyer

Star Staff Writer

"WHY DO you hate the Palestinians; why do you give good money to a bad and illegal cause?" This was the first question posed by Mr Nidal Sukhtian, local head of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, in a meeting on Wednesday with American ambassador to Jordan Mr Roger Harrison concerning Israel's request for \$10 billion loan guarantees from the United States. "Ambassador Harrison replied: 'We don't hate you at all...'", Mr Sukhtian told The Star.

During the meeting, Mr Harrison was presented with an open letter to the people of the United States urging strongly against the issuing of the loan guarantees to Israel. The letter was signed by Jordanian and Arab organizations. Congress is expected to debate the issue next week. Mr Sukhtian expressed further hope that the statement would also be distributed to both the US Congress and government.

"These guarantees ... will be used to build illegal, colonial settlements in the Palestinian Arab territories occupied by Israel for the purpose of housing neo-colonialists, while in the US 100,000 American children go to sleep homeless every night," read the text of the letter, which also mentioned UN Security Council resolution 242, emphasizing the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war.

Mr Harrison is reported to have reiterated to Mr Sukhtian US Secretary of State Baker's condition that loan guarantees would only be issued if Israel ceases further settlements on Arab lands. ■

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Providing blood services to Amman's citizens is now the responsibility of the National Blood Bank, King Hussein Medical City, Queen Alia Hospital, the Islamic Hospital, The Red Crescent and the University Hospital of Jordan, who all share the task. The blood banks are therefore centralized, and are capable

"Furthermore, it is a very expensive service, when you take into consideration the entire process. The blood itself also has a short shelf life of between 21 and 35 days, so there must be a balance between the distribution and collection of blood to

The number of national blood donors reached a figure of 60,000 last year. Such volunteers are generally people who believe

So-called replacement donors constitute the other 79 percent of contributors. In this case the blood donated is given to a patient on the understanding that an equal amount of blood, not necessarily of the same blood

The latest drive for the Al Blood Bank is an awareness campaign that has been launched to promote the importance of blood donations. "We want people to be better informed and understand that to give blood is valuable and not harmful," says Dr. Yousef. "We are now having sessions each week in clinics, institutions and other public places to discuss the subject with the public." ■

expression of individualism brought about the inevitable political, economic circumstances which has led to the nation of frustrated and dreams challenged. The story will of defiance of the forces of her character of the protagonists and the film *Queen* has

In the U.S., the image of the Chinese immigrant is often negative. Valued for their hard work, they are often relegated to menial jobs and are sometimes seen as a threat to the American way of life. In the U.S., the Chinese immigrant is often seen as a threat to the American way of life.

In the title story *The Tri* of the City, Qasbi depicts the image of the status quo: Values and principles relegated to the martyrs' cemeteries, while the living indulge in sensuality and greed for money; but both the cemetery and the city combine to give life its form. The city and the ce-

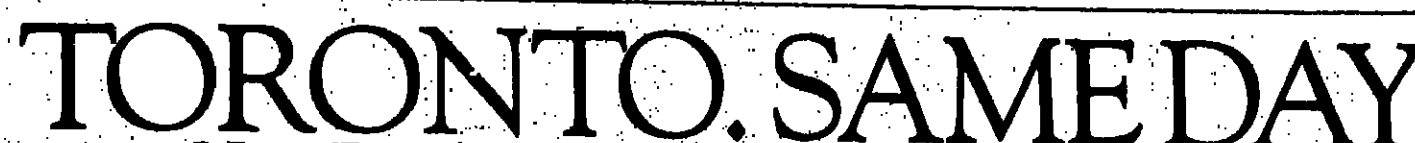
Angry Ballerina. You'll ask the Great Minister, why she is angry, and I'll humbly and tell you she is the daughter of the people, in spite of her dreams. She dreams of living on a faraway island, as far as clouds are from the mountains. They claim, and I know now they are, that one of the people who rebel against repression.

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the shores of this collection. In his epilogue to the work, Mo'nis Ar-Razzaz rightly serves that The Tremble of the City is a collection of nightmares merged with reality; it is blended with illusion, truth embodied in truth, truth veiled by myth. All these elements conspire to create a tangible world in which, when you attempt to grasp it "dissolves and vanishes." You almost comprehend the crests of its simplicity, when discern ambiguity. The Tremble of the City is not for those who seek comfortable sleep, but for nightmares, but rather for those who suffer from insomnia, sleeplessness, and awesome nightmares. ■

Fahd A. Salameh is a producer at Radio Jordan. He has an MA in English literature from the University of Jordan.

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

Nahla Tabbaa:

Youth, beauty and a sense of 'joie de vivre'

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

"HARD-WORKING" and "romantic" are words that spring to mind on viewing Nahla Tabbaa's recent oil paintings. Having only started to paint in 1984, Tabbaa has developed artistically to a style which can now be described as one of optimistic reminiscence — all her paintings reflect eye-catching experiences or scenes found during stays in Lebanon, Europe or Saudi Arabia.

Despite having held five local exhibitions and one in Riyadh, Tabbaa still feels that there is much to learn. A late starter artistically (she only started to paint once her children had grown up and married), Tabbaa shows a thirst to learn more about painting as each day passes.

She paints daily in her studio, sitting at her easel and looking through windows reflecting the lights of Amman. When she tires she rests until she is ready to resume.

The products of her brush and palette are long-remembered scenes — her recent trip to the Caribbean is depicted in her recent home exhibition. Chocolate colored children in white clothes vibrate on the canvas while in another painting tourists sit pa-

tiently to have their hair plaited in the Bo Derek vogue. The Caribbean is epitomized by a richly colored sea of green and blue. In one composition, brightly colored trees in red and mauve hues stand regally to one side. Looking at these pieces one instantly feels a sense of innocence and *joie de vivre*.

The eastern veiled women or the bride looking at herself in the mirror tell us that the painter is a romantic at heart. The soft shades of blue or baby pink boast of femininity. The translucent materials, the positions of the head or hand make one feel that these portraits could be made into covers for romantic novels. Most of those women look into mirrors; I asked her why. "Because Man is vain and



Nahla Tabbaa: Painting her own heritages

when he looks at himself in a mirror he has this arrogant look about him which I find fascinating," she said. Another part of the artist which one learns about through her paintings is her love of eastern culture. Whether it is prayer beads dangling from a wooden carved box, or the silver

jewelry that her models wear, the eastern touch is constantly evident. Her still life compositions are of *nargilehs*, opalescent vases, or ceramics decorated with calligraphy. Many stand on oriental fabrics daintily decorated in an impressionist style.

Tabbaa's compositions show that she has worked hard at sketching and that she is aware of balanced compositions, and of the different painting methods that achieve different effects. Her exotic fabrics are very realistic with their overlapping folds and depths of dimension. She paints vividly toned carpets in the same manner.

Tabbaa finds it strange that it was Western orientalisks who introduced eastern culture to its world through paintings, and said indignantly: "It's about time that an Arab painted her own heritage and showed it to foreigners and not the other way round."

The Islamic touch is highlighted in her depiction of buildings. Here, nearly every door is arched or columns support arches from which lanterns drop. These scenes are generated from the artist's imagination, but, said Tabbaa, "They could have been something which I saw in the past."

Youth and beauty are recurrent themes, symbolized by widely

magnified irises and lilies that fill the whole canvas. The artist paints her flowers in their natural environment by concentrating on a cross section of a garden or forest. As to why her work always deals with beauty and romance, Tabbaa explained: "I do not like to paint sad themes. If one is going to have a painting hanging on his or her wall I think it should be of something cheerful. There is enough misery in the world and one should always try hard to be optimistic."

Her zestful spirit is imprinted in her paintings, showing young people dancing in a discotheque in Aqaba, or the Caribbean. She is attracted by light and its reflections on objects. In the disco scenes, light emanating from a mirrored globe glints off singers in the background and dancers in the foreground. Blue hues, which peep out of nearly every painting, softly highlight an arm here or a gyrating leg there.

Tabbaa has painted a few nudes but is shy of presenting them in the public eye. Although her paintings show power and a mastering of technique, she is conscious of the subjects she paints and also of who will view them. Time, as has been proven with her artistic skills, will hopefully rid her of her inhibitions and give her much more confidence. ■

The uprising in cartoons:

A warning to Israel, hope for Arabs

By Vesna Musharqa
Special to The Star

JORDAN'S FIRST cartoon exhibition was opened at the Royal Cultural Centre this week by Minister of Information, Mr. Mahmoud El-Sherif. Promoted under the title "The Uprising in Cartoons", the exhibition was organized by the Washington based American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), who have a branch here in Amman. Those present at the opening included the Palestinian and Tunisian ambassadors to Jordan and a number of invited guests, among them journalists, artists and members of the public.

The collection of 89 enlarged cartoons from both the North American and Canadian press highlighted the intifada from the angle of local public opinion,

and indicated a qualitative change in attitudes towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from abroad.

Mr. Sherif evaluated the exhibition as a "contribution" to the Jordanian people, as it illustrated changes in the perspective of the US and Canadian media, and added that "every picture is a crystallized story of 40 years of the Palestinian drama, presented in a very intelligent way."

"I liked many of them," he said. "Perhaps the most appealing to me were those that dealt with the corruption of basic Jewish principles, such as calling for justice and compassion, or those which alluded to Israel's identification with the South African regime. I also found a group of cartoons which depicted American help to Israel as a means of dehumanizing and persecuting Palestinians to be very strong

and expressive."

In the opinion of Haya Awad, the office manager of the ADC, "The cartoons gave a real picture and a correct impression of what was happening at the beginning of the uprising in 1987, through 1988, and what is still occurring but in an aggravated form."

However, Jalal Ar-Rifai, a Jordanian cartoonist from the daily Al-Dustour, did not agree with the depth of some of the cartoons tackling the Palestinian side of life.

"At last North Americans have started to say something to the world about Israel and the reality of the occupied territories," he said, "and this is a positive side to the cartoons. On the other hand, I found some of them limited in comprehending the real situation. What's going on in the occupied territories is only a piece of news for the American



media, and this makes a big difference when you come to the cartoon," he said.

The collection deals with a variety of issues relating to Israel's brutal "Iron Fist" policy, US-Israeli relations, Israeli-South African relations, the quest for peace, Biblical images and the current political situation. One group of cartoons presents the US' refusal to deal directly with the Palestinian leaders and Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's rejection of any peace initiative.

It was evident that many cartoonists found great inspiration from Israel's contradictory stance of proclaiming freedom of the press while at the same time censoring the media and charging the press with being "outside agitators who are inciting the uprising." Others targeted the Biblical claims of some Israelis, juxtaposing them with the shattering realities of the uprising through the use of Biblical allusions.

The cartoons are largely chronological, and end with US-Israeli relations and the issue of the \$10 billion US loan guarantee. Car-

toonists have echoed growing questions raised about Israel's future motives in the occupied Arab land, they have focused on the Israeli rebuffs of American criticism and the problems of the US government's foreign policy. "Your tax dollars at work," is a message featured in many drawings showing Israeli repression of Palestinian civilians.

The exhibition, which runs until February 21, has brought new styles of cartoons to Jordan with highly artistic standards, according to cartoonist Ar-Rifai. "They are also very successful in passing straight forward critical statements," he said, "some of them do not even need words."

One important aspect of the collection is that it reveals the Americans no longer see Jews purely as victims of the holocaust, and Palestinians as terrorists. As ADC member Naji Soukhtian stressed: "These cartoons are a serious warning to Israel, and a sign of hope for Arabs." ■

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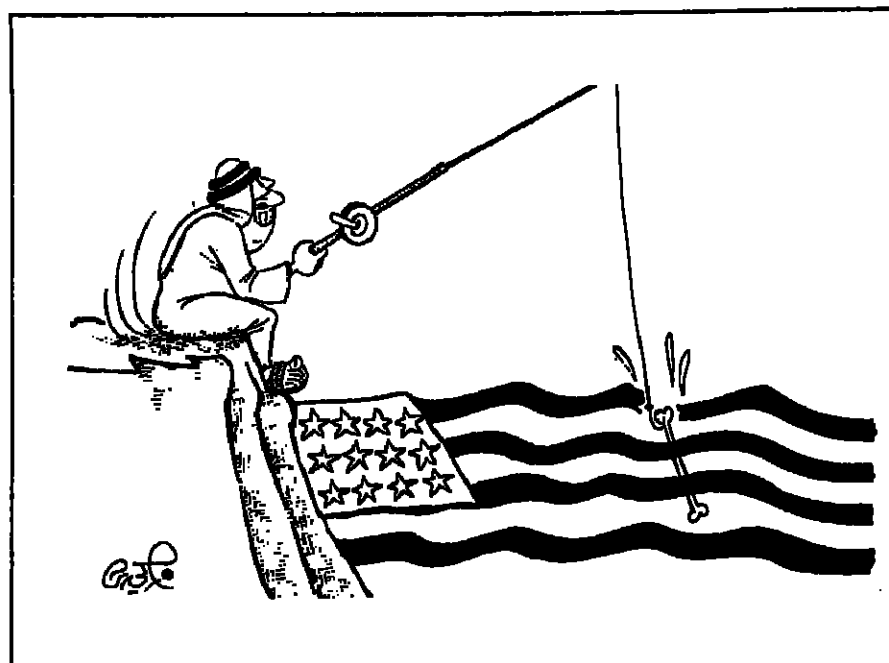
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Our Say....

Israel's new war

THE KILLING of Hizbollah leader, Sheikh Abbas Musawi, on Sunday in an Israeli air raid on South Lebanon threatens to disrupt the current Middle East peace talks by driving the entire region into a vicious circle of bloody confrontations whose eruption seems to have started already. One cannot but condemn Israel's cowardly raids on South Lebanon whose victims have included innocent women and children.

It is incidents like these that come as a chilling reminder of the precariousness of the region, and the speed with which hopes for peace and security can be dashed, only to be replaced by grim reminders of massacres, invasions and butchery. Israel's irresponsible acts in South Lebanon this week can only be interpreted as a malicious attempt to preempt all hopes for the success of the peace process in the region.

Within the coming hours, Israel may repeat its 1982 invasion of South Lebanon. By doing so it will be solely responsible for driving this region back into the abyss of war, terrorism, violence and extremism. Degenerate Israeli leaders like Yitzhak Shamir may think that such chaos will play to the benefit of Israel. He believes the collapse of the peace process will unhook Israel and pave the way for the total colonization of the occupied territories. South Lebanon and its haunted population would again be placed as the scapegoat.

Only God knows who else shares Shamir's evil and myopic view in Israel and elsewhere, but the time has come for people like Shamir to be made accountable for their deeds. The security and future of the region cannot be made hostage in the hands of people like him. Israel today possesses the capability of setting the whole region on fire. If it does go into Lebanon and the United Nations and the world stands by, then the credibility of the United States and its partners in the Middle East peace process will be blown into smithereens and the tide of extremism will take over.

Musawi's murder will inevitably draw the forces of extremism back into the center stage of Middle East politics. We have seen how the ripples of his death resulted in angry vows of revenge by Hizbollah militants. The cries of mourners echoed in faraway countries like Iran and the new Muslim republics. In the new geopolitical order, Israel's acts of sabotage can easily turn into major catastrophes.

This is an election year both in the United States and in Israel. While Shamir's muscle flexing may be aimed at his bewildered electorates, it is also aimed at testing President Bush's resolve, who is now trekking the re-election trail.

Shamir's tactics will range from political blackmailing to military adventurism. His dirty methods must not be allowed to pass. There are innocent people dying in Lebanon today and more could die if Israel launches a massive ground attack. The road to peace cannot possibly go through the demolished villages and dilapidated hamlets of South Lebanon. That saga has occurred too often in recent years to be allowed to happen again.

The Security Council has more than a moral responsibility to oblige Lebanon's plea and call for action to put an end to Israel's aggression. The United States has more than a moral duty to draw a line across the deserted and cratered terrain of South Lebanon. Lip-service will not do this time because there is too much at stake. Israel is not only threatening the stability of the Middle East with its irresponsible actions, but perhaps the security of the whole world as well. ■

Israel embarrassed by corruption probe into how it spends US aid

AS ISRAEL seeks to persuade the US to provide it with \$10 billion in loan guarantees to buoy an immigration-burdened economy, US investigations into corruption associated with US defense assistance to Israel are turning an embarrassing spotlight on how Israel spends its annual \$1.8 billion in military aid from the US.

"We think the US taxpayer has been getting screwed," is the blunt assessment of one American acquainted with the investigations.

Among the allegations recently repeated in the Israeli press — eliciting strong denials from the Israeli government — is that some misappropriated money was used to fund espionage in the US.

The chief object of concern is Israel's military procurement program which spends the bulk of the annual US military grant aid on buying arms, equipment and supplies from US companies.

Both the US government, through the Justice Department, and Congress, through the House Energy and Commerce Committee headed by Democratic Congressman John Dingell, are gathering evidence of a complex network of corruption involving the siphoning off of millions of dollars of aid stretching back more than five years.

The issue first came to public light in late 1990 when General Karmi Dotan, a former head of Israeli Air Force procurement, was arrested and convicted of skimming \$12 million from IAF purchasing programs through bribes, falsified contract values and links to "front" companies to which he directed contracts.

Last Sunday, Colonel Yitzhak Sa'ar, a former IAF quartermaster, pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring with General Dotan between 1987 and 1990 to award contracts to companies in return for \$3 million.

According to Israeli prosecution documents, in one \$250 million deal in 1986 to buy engines for IAF F-16 fighters from General Electric, General Dotan used a secret association with a US consultant advising GE to persuade GE to place an engine-testing contract with an Israeli company run by another associate of General Dotan's which owned only an empty warehouse at the time. The deal allegedly netted the conspirators more than \$7 million.

Investigators working for the Dingle committee believe that the extent of corruption extended well beyond that revealed in Israel's prosecution of the Dotan case.

Much of their attention has focused on Israel's military procurement mission in New York and suspicions that malpractice among its employees has become endemic over the years. On Sunday three Israelis were charged in a Tel Aviv court with running a bribery operation connected to the procurement office.

Mr David Felder and Mr Mordechai Markovitz, both former employees in the mission who left in 1985 to set up a military marketing company called Rotair, were charged with illegally obtaining information from Mr Ya'acov Meringer, a procurement mission officer, about contract bidding.

US investigators are also probing a number of US companies — notable GE and Pratt and Whitney — to discover to what extent their officers were aware of, or involved in, the corruption. "There was knowledge of this going up to some level, but how high we don't know," said one.

Investigators suspect that the corruption network may have been used by Israeli in-

telligence bodies operating in the US to fund covert operations there, but no firm evidence has yet been produced.

Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli defense minister, stated flatly this month that Israel did not spy on the US — at least not since the uncovering of US naval officer Jonathan Pollard, who was caught supplying secret documents to Israel in 1983.

The corruption scandals have become an embarrassment for Israel. The defense establishment's blunders were deepened last month, it was disclosed that the Israeli head of a US-funded program to produce an "Arrow" ballistic missile interceptor had been sacked for doing private defense sector consultancy work contrary to his contract terms with Israeli Aircraft Industries.

Clearly, revelations of serious malpractice in the use of US financial assistance could have a damaging effect on Israel's case for continued US defense and civilian aid worth \$3 billion a year and its request for loan guarantees.

But an overriding concern is the damage done domestically to the military's hitherto cherished reputation for honesty and integrity.

"That is what has shaken the military establishment," says Mr Dore Gold, a senior staffer at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Mr Arens is balking at allowing US investigators free access to pursue their inquiries in Israel, as the Dingle committee is seeking. But he told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this week that the country could not live with the German prisoners, Heinrich Struensee and Thomas Kempfner. Sources in the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that the Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, told Mr Picco during a recent meeting in Vienna that he was experiencing "problems" with the kidnappers and could do no more to help the UN envoy unless Bonn was prepared to compromise over two Lebanese brothers imprisoned in Germany on murder and explosives charges.

The feeling of Mr Struensee and Mr Kempfner, the release of 250 Lebanese prisoners from Israel's Khiam jail, and the release of the Israeli air force officer, the head of the Hizbollah Sheikh, Ahmad al-Khatib, kidnapped by the Israeli Air Force in July 1989 — all these now appear to be far away as ever, despite optimism in the Israeli government that the "hostage" would be closed within weeks.

In an effort to keep the negotiations going, the UN is reported to be trying yet again to discover the whereabouts of four Lebanese kidnapped by Phalangist militia in Beirut during the 1982 Israeli invasion — hostages who are widely believed to have been murdered within hours of their abduction.

The most serious development for Mr Picco — and the reason why he is no longer trusted by some of the kidnappers with whom he has negotiated — is Israel's kidnapping last month of three Lebanese civilians from Sheikh Obaid's village of Jibchit. The three were freed within 24 hours — but only after a mysterious torch found beside the car in which the men had been travelling exploded in the hands of Sheikh Obaid's bodyguard, killing him, the brother of one of the kidnapped men and a third civilian.

The implications of this largely ignored incident have yet to be fully appreciated outside Lebanon. A well-known member of Islamic Jihad, the pro-Iranian group which held Terry Waite, John McCarthy, Mr Anderson and four other Americans, warned in an interview with *The Independent* last November that the kidnapping of Westerners in Lebanon could recommence if Israeli abducted more civilians in the south of the country.

Since then, Israeli-paid Lebanese militiamen killed a 10-year old girl, Amal Yassin, near the village of Majdel Slim and kidnapped four of her relatives — all of whom are now believed to be in prison in Israel. After receiving an undertaking from the Israeli, Mr Picco is understood to have given his word to Lebanese captors in December that there would be no more Israeli abduction in southern Lebanon, a promise now regarded as broken.

Even before Mr Anderson's release, Mr Picco had received death threats and, in the weeks that followed he did not return to Lebanon. The refusal of the German government to free their two prisoners — whose brother, Abdul Hadi Hamadi, holds Mr Struensee and Mr Kempfner — has only exacerbated the situation for Mr. Kempfner. Mohamed Hamadi was sentenced in Germany for the 1983 hijacking of a TWA jet to Beirut on which an American naval diver was murdered.

Among the Lebanese kidnappers — most of them sympathetic to Iran — there has been considerable debate about the wisdom of closing the "hostage file." Mr Anderson's release was in fact delayed for several hours when some of his kidnappers temporarily refused to free him. In Beirut, it is now said that several captors refused to accept funds sent to them by Iran at the end of last year — on the grounds that their "works" had not yet been completed, that the Khiam prisoners had not been freed and that Sheikh Obaid — whose liberation became the main demand of pro-Iranian Hizbollah clerics — had not been released. And, despite continuing claims to the contrary by Western embassies, the Lebanese kidnappers have not taken "refugees" in Tehran — they are still in Beirut.

Whether or not Westerners again risk kidnapping, or worse, remains to be seen. But tension in southern Lebanon has again increased. Israel is once again shelling villages and the Hizbollah militia in the south are more heavily armed than ever. After recent Israeli retaliation for an attack on their occupation troops in the area, Hizbollah fielded an estimated thousand armed men in the region, who were only dissuaded from mounting a counter-offensive by the heavy snow which covered many of the roads.

The two German hostages, both of whom are said here to have held left-wing views which made them at least initially sympathetic to the kidnappers, seem to have little hope of early freedom. The UN is still trying — however vainly — to recover the remains of the British writer, Alec Collett, and the French researcher, Michel Seurat, both of whom are believed to have died in captivity. ■

The Independent & news reports

Death of Hizbollah leader keeps Middle East hostage files open

THE KILLING this week of Hizbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Musawi in an Israeli air raid on South Lebanon means that the Zionist captors have given up on reaching an agreement to free its hostages from Lebanon. Musawi, who was considered a moderate by Hizbollah standards, had been responsible for the release of most of the hostages from Lebanon. With his death, the hostage file will remain open for some time and while Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini has sought a resumption of hostage negotiations, the UN's special envoy to Lebanon, Gennadiy Danilov, has been unable to secure the liberation of a single hostage since the release of the American journalist, Terry Anderson, on 6 December and he is now said to have been barred from his life and forbidden to return to Lebanon.

According to Lebanese kidnappers, Israel has broken its promise not to abduct more civilians in southern Lebanon and the gunmen holding the two remaining Western hostages have refused to free the German prisoners, Heinrich Struensee and Thomas Kempfner. Sources in the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that the Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, told Mr Picco during a recent meeting in Vienna that he was experiencing "problems" with the kidnappers and could do no more to help the UN envoy unless Bonn was prepared to compromise over two Lebanese brothers imprisoned in Germany on murder and explosives charges.

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Hostage taking in Lebanon: It's not over yet

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Middle East Underlined

Musawi's killing will lead to a new cycle of violence

By a special correspondent

THE MIDDLE East occupied center stage in world affairs again this week with the heightened tension along the Lebanese-Israeli borders after Sunday's killing by Israeli gunships of Hizbollah leader in Lebanon Sheikh Abbas Musawi, 39. The Shiite leader was killed along with his wife and son, when Israeli helicopters attacked his motorcade near the southern Lebanese port of Tyre. Musawi died instantly.

At least 15 people were reported killed after Israeli planes carried two raids into south Lebanon in retaliation for Saturday's daring Palestinian attack on an Israeli army camp near Um Al Fahem inside Israel proper.

Three Israeli soldiers were hacked to death by unknown Palestinian assailants. A fourth soldier was injured in the attack. The Israeli authorities have failed to arrest the attackers, but by Tuesday at least 20 people were reported arrested in the occupied city of Jenin, the base of the Black Panthers group which claimed responsibility for the attack.

Jenin was put under curfew for an indefinite period of time. The death of Musawi has shocked Lebanese Shiites who vowed to avenge the death of Musawi during an emotionally-charged funeral on Tuesday when Hizbollah's new leader Hassan Nasrallah promised to continue the fight against Israel.

Meanwhile, Katyusha rockets continued to fall on northern Israel from southern Lebanon for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday. Israeli guns were responding to the fire with continuous bombardment of Shiite villages, while Israeli jets flew reconnaissance operations over the area. There were fears that Israel may carry a new invasion of southern Lebanon within the coming hours. Lebanese Army beefed up its forces in the south, while South Lebanon Army called on villagers to evacuate their villages as a warning of an imminent Israeli and SLA attacks on the area.

The sudden increase in tension along the Israeli-Lebanese borders has also strained relations between parties to the Middle East peace talks which will resume in Washington on Monday.

Israel accused Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization of carrying out the attack on the Israeli camp. Iran, reacting to Musawi's murder, accused Israel of terrorism, while Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the PLO condemned the Israeli raids on South Lebanon and the murder of the Shiite leader. Israel's Foreign Minister David Levy said the peace process will not tie the hands of Israel to defend itself. Jordan's Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Israel was aiming to abort peace process. America and the European Community called for restraint and hoped that the peace process will survive the current confrontation. ■

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Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

Une semaine après

Le spleen du fermier jordanien

Triste constat pour Issa Halabi, fermier de la vallée du Jourdain: 30% de la récolte emportée par les eaux, 30.000 dollars de perte



Issa Halabi: "Contre Dieu, nous sommes impuissants"

ISSA HALABI a le blues. Le mauvais temps de la semaine dernière est à l'origine de sa mauvaise humeur. De sa colère. 25 à 30% de sa récolte de citrouilles, de mandarines, de citrons, de melons, d'oranges s'est noyée dans les dernières tempêtes. "On ne voyait même plus les arbres, ils étaient ensevelis par les eaux".

Les pertes sont énormes pour cette ferme industrielle de 30 hectares, qui jouxte le Jourdain: environ 30.000 dollars. Il est loin le million de kilos que produisait annuellement cette terre miraculée de Tal Arbaeen, à quelques encablures des paysages bibliques. Du lac Tibériade.

Quand les Dieux se déchangent, peu importe leur confession, impossible de faire barrage. "L'année dernière, nous avons beaucoup perdu à cause de la guerre du Golfe. Cette fois-ci, c'est à cause de la pluie. Contre Saddam Hussein, nous pouvions faire quelque chose, si c'est Dieu, nous sommes totalement impuissants".

Issa rit jaune

L'hiver 1991-92 est exceptionnel. La pluie ou la neige n'ont pas laissé une minute de répit à Issa et à ses employés. D'habitude, la cueillette s'effectue en décembre. "Cette

année, nous n'avons même pas eu le temps, ce n'est pas normal, c'est un record, dans la Vallée, nous n'avons pas vu cela depuis 1920".

Pour la première fois en cinq ans, l'eau atteint les fruits. Dans certaines zones, elle recouvre les arbres. Seulement ceux qui sont en première ligne, face à la rivière. Les autres, qui vivent sur les hauteurs ont eu chaud. Mais Issa est épuisé. Issa Halabi se met à philosopher: "Au fond, je suis satisfait. Car je ne suis pas égoïste. Lorsque il ne pleut pas, personne n'est content. La pluie, même dans ces conditions, c'est bon pour la Jordanie". Issa rit jaune. Son porte-monnaie aussi.

Mardi 11 février, le conseil des ministres a décidé de venir en aide à Issa et à ses homologues, agriculteurs en détresse. Les prêts accordés habituellement pour l'équipement des fermes industrielles vont servir à parer au plus pressé. Les petites exploitations vont bénéficier de prêts à long terme et... sans intérêts. Un fonds pour l'assurance des agriculteurs devrait prochainement être créé.

Des experts sont déjà sur le terrain, aux quatre coins de la Jordanie. Pourtant, Issa reste sceptique. Comment va-t-on évaluer les pertes. Les prix varient selon l'offre et la demande?

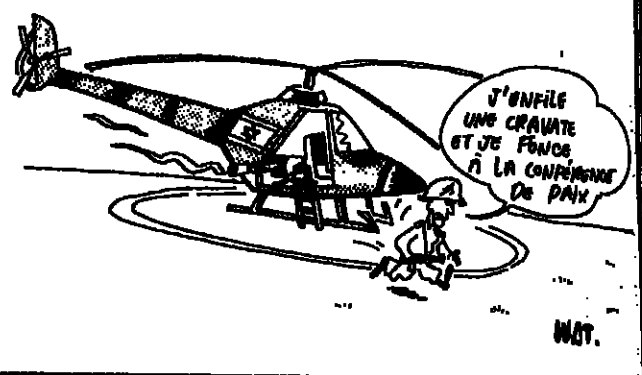
La vallée du Jourdain est en dessous du niveau de la mer; de moins 100 à moins 400 mètres. Dans cette zone privilégiée, Issa et ses confrères travaillent "hors saison". Les cultures d'été attendent la cueillette d'hiver. "Quand il fait froid, nous prenons des risques". Et d'ajouter: "Si vous conduisez à 200 à l'heure et que vous avez un accident, difficile après, d'aller quémander à l'assurance. Pour nos produits, c'est la même chose. Ils grandissent lors de la période interdite, celle où arrive le gel".

Issa Halabi alterne optimisme et pessimisme. "Finalement, c'est une bonne année, répète-t-il, je veux dire pour l'eau. Nous ne pouvons pas dire, de la pluie, de la pluie et ensuite, s'il-vous-plait, pas de pluie, pas de pluie".

Puis il change de ton: "Chaque année, nous disons, la suivante sera bonne. Lorsque le rêve se réalise, les recettes nous servent à compenser les pertes de la précédente". Quand ce n'est pas la pluie, un autre fléau vient s'abattre sur la vallée. Exemple: les mouches blanches. "Elles provoquent des dégâts inimaginables, n'importe quoi peut-être un problème pour le fermier. Nous travaillons contre la nature". Conclusion: "Ne vous laissez pas dans l'agriculture, cela ne rapporte pas d'argent".

Michel Armand

RETOUR DE PAID AU LIBAN SUD



Télé. Orient

LIBAN - Le gouvernement libanais demande une "réunion d'urgence" du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, suite aux raids israéliens dans le sud du pays. "C'est la première fois depuis plusieurs années" que le Liban transmet une telle requête, a affirmé mardi, l'Ambassadeur auprès des Nations Unies, Khalil Makkawi. Il a vivement critiqué l'agression permanente d'Israël contre son pays et sa continuelle occupation du Sud-Liban. Dans une lettre au Secrétaire-Général des Nations Unies, Boutros Ghali et à l'Ambassadeur américain auprès de l'instance internationale, Thomas Pickering, le Liban proteste contre l'assassinat par Israël, du chef du Hezbollah libanais, Abbas Moussaoui, celui de sa femme et d'au moins quatre gardes du corps. Le gouvernement libanais dénonce également les raids israéliens sur des villages au Sud-Liban.

ALCOOL - 33 députés islamistes jordanien veulent tourner un "remake" de la "prohibition". Ils ont tous signé une pétition en faveur de l'interdiction de l'alcool en Jordanie. Ces parlementaires demandent la révision de la loi qui autorise sa fabrication, sa vente et sa distribution dans le Royaume. Le groupe a besoin de 42 voix pour obtenir la majorité à la chambre basse. Les premières discussions devaient avoir lieu mercredi. Si cette loi est votée, "nous allons cesser d'être une démocratie" déclare le député d'Irbid, Hussein Mjail.

A VOIR...

CONCERT - Le duo flûte et guitare de Nice, lundi 24 février, 20h00 au Centre Culturel Royal et mardi 25 à l'hôtel Holiday International d'Aqaba. Le concert est organisé par le Centre culturel français, en collaboration avec le Conservatoire national de musique. Le flûtiste Olivier Vicari et le guitariste Luis Saldaña joueront des œuvres anglaises, italiennes, allemandes, espagnoles et françaises pour retracer, l'évolution du répertoire pour flûte et guitare du 17ème siècle jusqu'à nos jours.

CINEMA - "En toute innocence" (1988), mardi 25 février à 20h00 au CCF. Un film d'Alain Jessua, avec Michel Serrault et Nathalie Baye. Une affaire de meurtre.

CONFERENCE - Mercredi 26, à 18h00 au CCF, "La nouvelle figuration", par Noël Favrelière.

Télé. France

ELECTIONS - Le candidat du Front National (extrême droite), Jacques Peyrat, a nettement dominé dimanche ses sept adversaires, au premier tour de l'élection cantonale de Nice, en recueillant 37,96% des voix. Il n'aura qu'un seul adversaire au deuxième tour, Marie-Jeanne Murat (UDF-Droite libérale), arrivée en deuxième position avec 15,81% des voix. L'abstention a été très forte: 63,77%. La région du sud-est de la France est un des bastions électoraux du parti d'extrême droite. L'ancien maire de Nice, Jacques Médecin, aujourd'hui réfugié en Amérique latine, suite à des problèmes avec l'administration fiscale, avait appelé à voter pour le Front National.

DUMAS - Le ministre des Affaires étrangères français, Roland Dumas estime l'affaire Habache "terrible". Le numéro un du Quai d'Orsay juge que les explications fournies par le gouvernement au parlement ont mis un terme au scandale. "Je me suis présenté, à la demande devant la Commission des Affaires étrangères de l'Assemblée nationale et du Sénat, déclare-t-il dans une interview publiée lundi par le quotidien Le Figaro, la déclaration du gouvernement et la motion de censure ont éclairé l'opinion". Interrogé sur la conversation qu'aurait eue MM. Yasser Arafat et Ibrahim Souss, émaille de propos antisémites, M. Dumas a déclaré que "l'on ne peut que s'interroger sur sa réalité".

20 FEBRUARY 1992

Tayseer Abdel Jaber :

Paix rime avec prospérité et stabilité

Entre la réunion économique du Caire (8 et 9 février) et le troisième round des pourparlers bilatéraux à Washington (24 février), le Secrétaire-Général adjoint des Nations Unies et Secrétaire-Exécutif de l'ESCWA, commission économique et sociale pour l'Asie occidentale, se confie au "Jourdain". Au centre du débat: reconstruction économique et Conférence de paix. Interview



Tayseer Abdel Jaber

Photo Jean-Christophe Fey

sante et efficace?

T.A.J.: "Le problème des expatriés et des réfugiés a malheureusement affecté une grande partie des pays de l'ESCWA: la Jordanie, les Territoires occupés par Israël, l'Egypte, le Yémen, le Liban et la Syrie. Ce sont les pays d'origine de la main d'œuvre employée dans les pays du Golfe. Ici ce problème n'a fait que s'aggraver suite au dernier conflit armé. Depuis la guerre Iran/Irak, jusqu'au dernier conflit du Golfe, le nombre de réfugiés et d'expatriés a atteint le seuil alarmant des deux millions. Les raisons ne sont pas seulement politiques, elles sont aussi économiques."

Les pays de la région sont divisés en deux catégories: les pays exportateurs de main d'œuvre et donc totalement dépendants de ses revenus et les autres, importateurs de cette main d'œuvre qualifiée, ou tout simplement adaptée aux nécessités locales.

Vu le contexte de récession qui n'a épargné aucun de ces pays, même les plus riches, une bonne part de cette main d'œuvre s'est retrouvée au chômage et donc dans l'obligation de se replier sur les pays d'origine. Ce qui a provoqué des pressions supplémentaires sur les pays à économies déjà fragiles. En réponse à la Jordanie, l'ESCWA a effectué une étude sur les effets de ce flux sur l'économie du pays et les voies pour trouver une solution à ce phénomène qui accable les efforts de développement.

Par ailleurs, l'ESCWA a tenu il y a quelques semaines, une réunion, regroupant, outre des représentants des pays concernés, des experts régionaux et internationaux, en vue de déceler les moyens d'absorber les milliers d'expatriés dans différents secteurs économiques, avec une attention particulière sur le secteur industriel. Tous les pays de la région y ont contribué et ont manifesté un intérêt particulier vis-à-vis de cette initiative. Evidemment, les institutions internationales qui ont participé à cette réunion et qui sont conscientes de la gravité du problème, pour

la Jordanie et pour les autres pays de la région vont s'efforcer d'apporter leur aide. Car le malaise et l'instabilité économiques et politiques ne sont dans l'intérêt de personne."

L.J.: Pour accélérer le processus de redressement, l'ESCWA veut aider les pays à travailler à la base. L'ONU reprendrait-elle le vieux refrain du Fonds Monétaire International (FMI), qui n'a pas toujours fait ses preuves, notamment en Afrique? Autrement dit, s'agit-il d'imposer un système ou de privilégier la concertation?

T.A.J.: "L'ESCWA est une commission régionale, chargée par le Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies (ECOSOC) de promouvoir la coopération et l'intégration économique des pays de la région en fournissant l'expertise et les services de consultation aux Etats membres de la région, tout en respectant la souveraineté de chacun. L'ESCWA n'a aucune intention de dicter un schéma ou une mesure de reconstruction économique. Notre mandat est clair: aider les pays de la région à travers le "Think tank" (NDLR: groupe de spécialistes) que nous sommes, à renforcer la coopération entre-eux. Par conséquent, notre approche se base sur la concertation, pour reprendre votre terme, elle consiste à favoriser les efforts de reconstruction, à effectuer des études, à regrouper tous les éléments possibles en matière de statistiques et à fournir tous les services consultatifs que les pays nous demandent. Il est nullement question de dicter quoique ce soit à qui que ce soit en matière de politique économique."

L.J.: N'est-il pas prématuré de parler de "stratégie commune" pour des pays qui attendent d'abord les résultats de la Conférence de paix?

T.A.J.: "Les pays de la région et les autres parties concernées par le règlement pacifique et juste du conflit au moyen-orient devraient s'atteler à faire aboutir

le processus de paix, ceci en proposant un avenir meilleur aux peuples qui ont tant souffert. Les responsables se devraient de présenter aux opinions publiques, dès les premières étapes du processus de paix, le dividende de la paix. C'est en s'engageant à fonder des relations de coopération équitables, capables de sortir la région de la situation de pauvreté, de sous-développement et d'intolérance, que l'on pourra parler de paix véritable et de stratégie commune. A mon avis, la paix ne pourra voir le jour que lorsqu'elle sera porteuse de prospérité et de stabilité. Il faut donc qu'elle contienne un projet socio-économique large, ambitieux et réaliste à la fois."

L.J.: La priorité, n'est-elle pas l'application des résolutions 242 et 338? L'ONU envisage-t-elle d'affirmer davantage sa présence pour la suite des pourparlers?

T.A.J.: "Il est une réalité indiscutable pour toutes les parties impliquées dans les négociations de paix et notamment les "parties": les deux résolutions pertinentes devraient être à la base du règlement du conflit au moyen-orient. Ces résolutions représentent les Nations Unies dans chaque étape des négociations même si de facto, l'organisation n'est pas tout à fait présente pour l'instant. Je suis convaincu que la décision finale sur la participation des Nations Unies reviendra au Secrétaire-Général, Dr Boutros-Ghali dont le rôle et l'expérience en droit international sont notoire."

L.J.: L'année prochaine, le marché unique européen sera sur les rails. L'Europe, représentée-t-elle un partenaire intéressant pour la région?

T.A.J.: "Les relations euro-arabes sont des relations historiques vouées à se consolider. Elles sont institutionnalisées depuis les années soixante-dix par des accords de coopération et d'assistance, et des protocoles financiers qui lient les deux partenaires à un niveau bilatéral, multilatéral... Les pays arabes sont parmi les premiers partenaires commerciaux du vieux continent. Certains ont plus d'échanges avec la CEE qu'avec leurs voisins immédiats."

Les deux ensembles, arabe et européen, ont étendu leur coopération à des secteurs d'ordre stratégique. N'est-on pas en train de débiter de la sécurité en Méditerranée en vue d'affirmer la souveraineté des Arabes et des Européens sur ce bassin. En vue de le transformer en bassin de paix et de coopération. La CEE représente le premier partenaire des pays arabes. Du côté arabe, la tâche immédiate consiste à consolider les projets de constitution d'ensembles régionaux capables de traiter avec le géant européen. L'ESCWA œuvre dans ce sens. Nos projets sont une contribution à cet immense dessein."

Propos recueillis par Francis Mazoyer

L'EDITO

de Suleiman Sweiss

Le choix d'Israël

IL EST peu probable que le raid meurtrier israélien de dimanche dernier sur le Liban-sud affecte les pourparlers du 24 à Washington entre Arabes et Israéliens. Ce ne sont que des conjectures. Pour ce qui est des faits, le Liban demande une "réunion d'urgence" du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU. Une éventuelle condamnation pour terrorisme de l'Etat d'Israël n'affaiblirait pas pour autant ses dirigeants. Pour M. Shamir, les résolutions de l'Instance internationale ne sont que des morceaux de papier sans signification et sans importance. La preuve: quelques jours avant le raid, la commission Onusienne des droits de l'homme avait adopté quatre résolutions condamnant la pratique de la torture dans les prisons israéliennes, ainsi que le non-respect de la Convention de Genève concernant les civils en temps de guerre.

Le cas du Palestinien Moustapha Akkash mort sous la torture le 15 janvier dernier était l'exemple type des violations dénoncées à maintes reprises par Amnesty International. Mais pas par les Occidentaux...

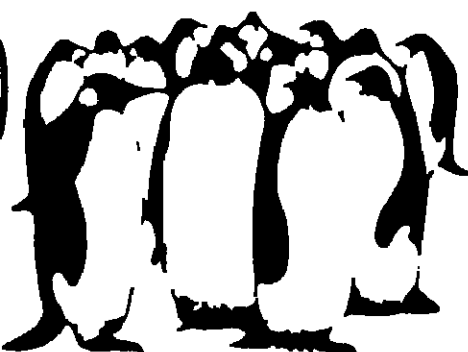
Depuis le début des pourparlers, à Madrid en octobre dernier, le gouvernement israélien a donné suffisamment de preuves de son penchant pour la guerre, même si Shamir et les siens font semblant de bavasser autour de la paix.

Si l'on en croit les reportages des journaux israéliens, en six mois, les activités de la colonisation ont quintuplé dans les Territoires arabes-occupés. Les déclarations provocatrices des dirigeants israéliens se sont multipliées. La semaine dernière, Shamir disait encore que "les Arabes devraient se faire à l'idée du grand Israël". Ne nous y trompons pas, cela n'avait rien à voir avec de la surenchère électorale. L'expansionnisme est un but stratégique permanent pour Israël.

L'Egypte, qui a pourtant signé un traité de paix avec Tel Aviv n'a pas été épargnée pour autant par la logique implacable des Israéliens. Les espions arrêtés au Caire il y a deux semaines, dont une jeune femme, étaient chargés de propager le Sida dans le pays. Selon les propos aveux de l'agent secret.

Hier encore, la Jordanie condamnait l'arrestation de deux délégués palestiniens à la Conférence de paix. Les Israéliens sèment l'injustice et la guerre en Terre Sainte et dans toute la région. Et ce depuis 40 ans. Veulent-ils la paix ou non? Il est temps pour eux de se décider et d'afficher clairement leurs options.

AROUND TOWN



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....

Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● The Marriott Hotels Corporation announced on 22 January of this year that it had reached an agreement with Scott's Hotels Ltd. that will result in at least 18 hotels offering approximately 3,000 rooms in the United Kingdom joining the Marriott lodging system. Coupled with its existing properties in the UK, Marriott now ranks within the top ten hotel groups in the UK in terms of number of rooms.

● Foreign acclaim is satisfying but, for noted collector of Palestinian and Jordanian costume and handicrafts Mrs Widad Kavar, it is an award at home that is bringing real joy. Mrs Kavar arrived home this week after launching yet another exhibition of her costumes, this time in Sweden, to find that she had won the Friends of Archaeology (FoA) "1992 award for service, merit and achievement."

The award is a recognition of her lifetime of work in the collection, study and preservation of costumes and other folk crafts of Palestine and Jordan and her sustained effort to exhibit awareness of their value through exhibitions and publications both in Jordan and abroad.

Mrs Kavar also enjoyed success in the election of the FoA committee for 1992. She, along with new FoA President Ghazi Saoud and committee members Muna Zaghloul, Barbara El Baroudi, former president Rami Khoury, George Kaplanian, Muhammad Najjar, Khairiah Amr and Pam Dougherty, will guide the society through another year of trips, lectures and other activities designed to spread the word on Jordan's archaeological riches, and the need to preserve them for future generations.

The committee elections were held during the FoA annual general meeting, which took place at the Goethe Institute in Amman.

● Under the patronage of the



● The Iranian chargé d'affaires in Amman held a reception at the Amman Plaza Hotel last week on the occasion of the Iran's National Day. Attending were ministers, high ranking officials, members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan and prominent businessmen.

minister of Rural and Environmental Affairs a symposium will be held on Saturday and Monday 22-24 February on "Air Pollution" at the Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution.

Participants will include Mr Richard Strauss, Bavarian Ministry for Environmental Protection; Mrs Christa Morawa, Federal Office for Environment; Dr Ali Abandah, Meteorology Department; Dr Nidal Qatamin, University of Jordan; Mr Ayman Al Hassan, Mr Ali Karmi and Dr Najeh Aqeel, Royal Scientific Society; Mr Ghazi Al Oudat, Ministry for Rural and Environmental Affairs; Dr Issa Abumneh, Ministry of Health; and Mr Muwaffaq Al Saqqar from the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution.

● The British Council and the Marriott Hotel are hosting three concerts by the Fine Arts Brass Ensembles in which they will play a variety of music pieces ranging from light classical to jazz.

The group is scheduled to perform at Yarmouk University on Monday 24 February, and at the

University of Jordan on Tuesday 25 February. Their last concert will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre on Wednesday 26 February.

● The Italian Embassy launched its eighth annual Italian film week Saturday at the Royal Cultural Centre. The film festival, which was originally scheduled for November 1991 was organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and is part of the program of cultural and technical cooperation between Italy and Jordan.

The six-film program, which are all from the 1950's and early 1960's, were especially chosen by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and reflect the contributions of Italian cinema world-wide, explained the Italian Cultural Attaché Giovanni Benenati.

"For example, Fellini's 'I Vitelloni' (Lazy Good for Nothing) is one of his first masterpieces and helps show his artistic evolution," he said, "while films such as 'Vita da Cani' (Dog's Life) show the post-war Italian 'neorealism' movement." The film week ends tonight and entrance is free.

Adrienne Vittadini

Love conquers all

By Eleanor Lambert

YVES SAINT Laurent's recent statement to a French newspaper that being a genius inevitably means being a tortured soul has been the hot topic among fashion designers lately.

The effect on some of the wannabe geniuses on Seventh Avenue was shown in displays of sulks, spite and mind-changing during the recent spring collections in New York. Karl Lagerfeld, Geoffrey Beene, Calvin Klein, Norma Kamali, James Galanos, Ronaldus Shamask, Romeo Gigli, Carolynne Rochm, and others whose careers have consistently twinned turmoil with triumph seem to fit right into this convenient new category that forgives all for art.

There are some shining exceptions, thank God. Marc Bohan, the French designer who suffered the trauma of being supplanted by Giancarlo Ferré after many years as Dior's designer, said that Saint Laurent's chronic depression was not fate but "a question of character." Notably non-eccentric style setters Givenchy, Sonia Rykiel, Emanuel Ungaro, Bill Blass, Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren never seem to suffer public doldrums.

Neither does that super-talented American sportswear designer Adrienne Vittadini.

Adrienne, a serene blonde beauty who looks today exactly as she did when I had last seen her twenty years ago, has had a subtle yet emphatic influence on the American Look for the past twelve years, since 1979, when she founded her own sportswear firm after making a name for herself as a knitwear designer with Kimberly, the firm that helped in a major way to establish the dominance of American sportswear in the 1960s.

Today she and her husband Gianluigi Vittadini head a worldwide fashion business distributing her elegant, upbeat clothes, fashion accessories, sassy swimwear and body flosses.

She can lay her claim to genius, but Adrienne is certainly no tortured soul. In fact, she is one of the loveliest, most sparkling personalities on the scene.

Was she blessed with natural optimism? Has her long and happy marriage saved her from the predictable suffering of the creative life? I asked Adrienne to explain as we sat in her high, airy white-walled Manhattan show-



Adrienne Vittadini joins the plaid parade with a curly classic tweed suit in bright magenta and marigold yellow with a matching yellow turtleneck in merino wool.

"But love is a nurturing force and when you have that nothing can really hurt for long. I've been lucky in my personal life."

Being lucky in love means working at it, too, and Adrienne agrees. The Vittadini's never let business and home life mix.

"We use it as a reward," she says. "We treat the car as our compressor. We use it to unwind. Then on, we deal with the other life."

She learned to ski and ski for him. Being Italian, Gianluigi Vittadini was into American passion.

But now he and Adrienne share a trainer for work-outs on alternate days of the week. They bicycle and play tennis in Sarasota, Florida. They take three-day weekenders in the country year-round.

● At the invitation extended by The North American Society of Phlebology, Dr Oskar Shukri Mustafa will participate in two conferences in San Diego, US, on the latest developments in the field of venous diseases and varicose veins.



Adrienne Vittadini — happiness is a beautiful dress

Special to The Star

For the 2,000 dollar a night "Mother of the Nation" of one of the most important financial centers in the world, the Philippines, Imelda Marcos has been the city. It is a luxurious residence which matches her reputation of a power which for many years has been a political observance forever lost to her.

Officially announcing her campaign on January 7 during the election of the NP (Nationalist Party) she is now on an election campaign. Weekly meetings with her husband's previous general election interviews with the press, in fact, nothing was more certain not the financial crisis in the process in Manila which concerns several hundreds of millions of dollars, and nobody knows the popularity of Imelda Marcos is at its lowest with the Filipinos.

Imelda Marcos is a woman with a surprising sense of destiny, Evita Peron.

Your decision to come to Manila is a courageous one. How did you consider all the consequences it might involve? Yes, my friends felt that after six years of the continuous "Mother of the Nation" campaign, the Marcos good name was being damaged. So I had to be brave. But I was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming number of people who came to meet me, and for the first time in my life, I felt like a woman.

Did you expect the people to welcome you as they did? Yes, I must confess, but this was the true "Mother of the Nation" because the boys of the Philippines are the boys of God.

How are you said to be under the stress... did you weigh the judicial consequences of your return?

Well, in the USA when I was a widow, I faced the same source of justice in the Philippines. Yet I was with only God and my faith prevailed. Despite the fact that 350,000 documents were presented against me to the government with 95 witnesses in 4 months of trial that was called the "Trial of the Century" in America. Then I was released by 12 American judges.

Thought to myself, what was I doing in the Philippines? I was not only 12 people, but millions of people. Was it better to be in the Philippines, where I had a budget of 500 million dollars, or is it better now, where I have a budget of 3 million dollars and nothing really is happening? In fact, the Philippines is a completely deteriorated country. When I left it, it was one of the poorest countries in the world and the lowest crime rate in the world, even here in Asia, and basic services were delivered.

Q: Since your return, have you had any contact with Cory Aquino or the government of the Philippines?

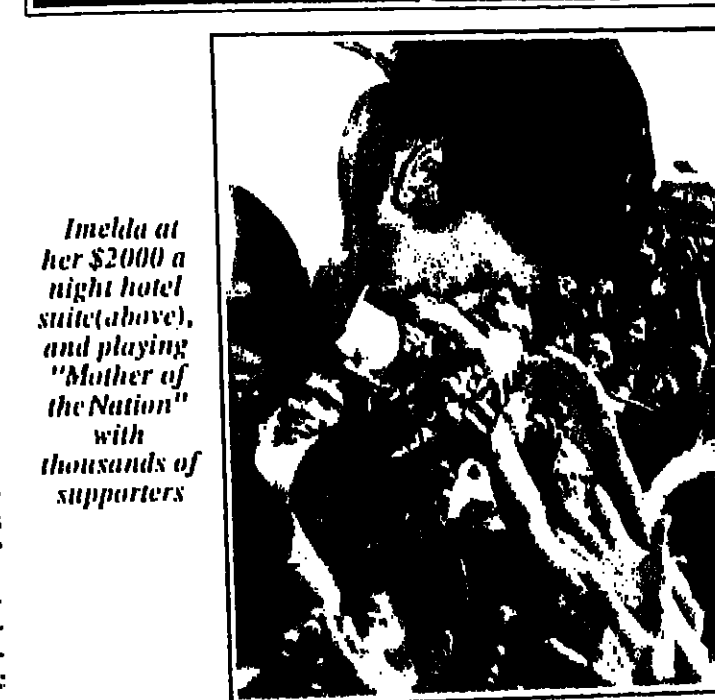
A: We tried after our arrival here to offer a hand of peace or reconciliation. To this date we have not been heard. Now the country's survival and the people's survival is at stake, and no person, in no matter what position, can afford to ignore this issue of survival for a nation and its people.

Q: Is there any real hope to have an arrangement with the government?

A: Well, I am a hopeless optimist. But in any given decision I always base myself on "what is good for all as good for one", not necessarily what is good for one is good for all, and decisions will be made for all, meaning the country — the people, Mrs Aquino and Mrs Marcos. I think that is how decisions should be made.

Return of the iron butterfly

The extraordinary saga of Imelda Marcos



Imelda at her \$2000 a night hotel suite (above), and playing "Mother of the Nation" with thousands of supporters

Q: What is the real story about the Marcoses?

A: As first lady it was a question of high profile. They look at you from head to toe, including your shoes...and down there in the Philippines, in Manila where I was governor, there are hundreds of shoe factories. So this high profile of Mrs Marcos made her change 7 times, an average, a day. It was also an opportunity for exporting one of our products. So I availed myself of this privilege, because it is a

Q: All your family is in Manila now. It's a great feeling I suppose?

A: Yes, it's a very happy occasion for any mother who has been separated from her late husband who has not even been buried in his own land, and it is also natural for a mother to be happy in the midst of her family and her loved ones in her mother land. This is not only a human right, it is not only a constitutional right, but it is natural, it is the law of God, which is the fundamental law of man. It is a divine will and a divine right and I'm submitting and fulfilling myself to it, not just because I want to or because it is an order, but because it is God's will.

Q: How are you enjoying your time in Manila?

A: Just being home is happiness for me... just being with my loved ones is ecstasy for me. And being with the Filipino people, who have shown me so much love and care and kindness is heavenly for me. Now I can say: "I've had my agony, now I'm having my ecstasy!"

Q: Did you have a Christmas message for the Filipinos?

A: I told them what I have always told them: Yes, I have had a charming life but I have also gone through the real world. For more than 20 years I lived in a palace and for 35 years I was married to a man that treated me like his queen from the day he and I got married. I believe that a life of extremes is a full life, a

whole life. But the greatest message not only for the Filipino people, but also for the people of the world is that I fulfilled my greatest responsibility and victory not when I was in the midst of wealth and power, but when I was in the midst of deprivation in a foreign country. And this is the message I tell my people: If Imelda made it in a foreign country, anybody can make it in his own motherland. This is perhaps the hope and inspiration that my life can bring to everyone.

Q: With all that has happened, have you changed? What kind of a woman are you now?

A: I am older now, I am stronger now, I am also more confident. I am more fulfilled, because before I was living up there — maybe it was a fantasy island — but suddenly it went down and I saw the real world, real people and real friends. And I myself became very real having gone through that and having transcended the ugliness of the world, yet there was suddenly a feeling of light, a feeling of fullness — you are no longer afraid of tomorrow because you know yourself.

Q: What is the real story about the Marcoses?

A: As first lady it was a question of high profile. They look at you from head to toe, including your shoes...and down there in the Philippines, in Manila where I was governor, there are hundreds of shoe factories. So this high profile of Mrs Marcos made her change 7 times, an average, a day. It was also an opportunity for exporting one of our products. So I availed myself of this privilege, because it is a

responsibility for any mother of the country to nurture exports. I even put a shoe center in Manila. I would buy shoe molds from Italy and we got the leather from Australia, and with the skill and the handiwork of the Filipino people, one of our exports were shoes. We were exporting about a million pairs of shoes, and a few years after, we were exporting about 60 or 70 millions pairs of shoes.

Q: You wanted to sell these shoes for a charity sale, can you explain this?

A: Well, right now I have been asked by charitable institutions and fund raisers for shoes to be auctioned. They could get a good price, like a thousands dollars a pair. There is an emergency need for money to help the victims of natural calamities like the explosion of Mount Pinatubo, typhoons and earthquakes. So I was all set to get the shoes, for after all these are my personal property, but unfortunately from 3000 only 1000 pairs are left. I will have to ask Mrs Aquino where they all went because it is very important now to get back the shoes to be able to sell them all and to raise funds for the poor.

Q: Do you have a message for the world?

A: The message is, there are solutions for problems, but solutions are not just out there. Every person can have solutions for his own problems. One just has to go further, or climb mountains. The fulfillment is here, the happiness is here, the vision is here. It can all be achieved. It all starts from the heart and God. It's here with me, and if you expect what's beautiful, and godly, and rightly in you as a human being, then you can say, as a believer of the Lord, "I command my spirit that thy will be done." You can be as sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, you will make it and you will prevail. ■

The National Music Conservatory
Noor Al Hussein Foundation



Fine Arts Brass Ensemble

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 26, 1992

8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

(Variety of Classical, Light and Jazz Music)

The Royal Cultural Centre

Tickets from

The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 681028

Babiche, Tel. 681322

The British Council, Tel. 838147/8

The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

Tickets JD 7

Two additional youth concerts:
* Monday, Feb. 24, Yarmouk University (Admission Free)
* Tuesday, Feb. 26, University of Jordan (Tickets JD 1)

Agenda

Films

● The American Cultural Center will present the film "Lilies of the Field" on Sunday 23 February at 7 pm. This Oscar-winning comedy is about an itinerant construction worker who helps a group of German nuns build a chapel in the New Mexico desert.

The film will be shown again next Thursday at the same time.

● The French Cultural Center will present the film "En Toute Innocence" on Tuesday 25 February at 8 pm. The film is about

an innovator who creates a device that helps in proving that his daughter-in-law's death was an accident.

● The Goethe Institute Amman presents the film "Jeder für sich und Gott gegen alle" on Tuesday 25 February at 8 pm. The film is subtitled in English.

Lectures

● At the French Cultural Center, Mr Noël Favreliere will be lecturing on "La nouvelle figure" on Wednesday 26 February at 6 pm.

● At ACOR, Dr Burt MacDonald will be lecturing on "Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites: Literary and Archaeological Evidence from the late 2nd and the first Mil-

lennium BC." The lecture will be on Monday 24 February at 7 pm.

Concerts

● The British Council, in cooperation with the National Music Conservatory/ Noor Al Hussein, is planning to hold a concert of "Fine Arts Brass" on Wednesday 26 February at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) at 8 pm.

● The French Cultural Center, in cooperation with the National Music Conservatory/ Noor Al Hussein, is planning to hold a concert performed by French duet Olivier Vicari on the flute and Luis Saldivia on the guitar.

This will take place at the Holiday International Hotel in Amman on Monday 24 February at 8 pm.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
22-28
February

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — Stamps of Greatness: The life and works of the famous Greek composer Anton Dvorak who lived in the 19th century.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — French Feature Film: The film is about a journalist who is killed in Nicaragua during the war between Contra forces and the government.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest: Dr Weston's daughter, Carol, falls in love with Dr Andrew; her father's newly-appointed assistant.
9:10 — Equinox. "Walk on Wheels": Tonight's documentary is about wheelchairs, their different makes and usages and how they provide the handicapped with mobility.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order. "Happily Ever After": A prominent businessman is killed. Police investigation reveals that the motive was human greed.

MONDAY

8:30 — Land of Hope and Gloria.
9:10 — Capital City: Friedman, the corporate financiers, try to take over Shane Dealers, but the deal fails.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Gambler: Brady Hoax goes after the Macord gang to save his abducted son and rid the West of the gang.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Evening Shade. "Vote Early and Vote After."
9:10 — Golden Years: A gene experiments center is only a cover for something bigger; something that even the director and security officer don't know about.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — G.B.H.: Pressure groups try to influence Michael and attempt to discredit him by setting him up with a beautiful woman who works for them.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Teesh. "Carnival knowledge": Surprisingly, Susan knows more than one student in the college.
9:10 — World of Audubon. "The Island of the Galapagos": Sixteen in number, they are a world of their own; they tell the story of evolution, but their isolation ends as modern world arrives.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Burning shore: Otala and his men are out of jail, while Sontille is determined to get revenge for all the pain they had caused her.



Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau on Monday at 6 pm

THURSDAY

8:30 — Spatz. "Sound of Musik": A customer loses his wallet and, mistakenly, accuses one of the staff. Later, the staff member is proven innocent.
9:10 — N.B.A. Basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Movie of the week: "Ernie Kovacs": The true story of a man whose wife deprives him of his two daughters.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Lenny: Lenny's father is robbed in his own house. He tries to take the law into his own hands, but later discovers it to be in vain.
9:10 — Derrick. "Long Night for Derrick": The daughter of the magistrate was kidnapped just before the trial of a murderer. Derrick spends all night to free the girl.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Chancer: "Wreckage": The Douglas family mourns Jamie's death. Mauris, on the other hand, manages to join the board of directors by acquiring 20 per cent of the company's shares.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine. La prof de maths. In this episode Julie and Damien, the two teenage children of the Fontaine, receive private math lessons.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — A selection of French songs.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — La Maison Bleue. A cartoon series for children.
5:45 — Géoscope. A documentary program about the com-

cial life in Rennes.
6:10 — L'école des fans. Children sing the songs of their favourite singers.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A musical program.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous-marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about life in the sea.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. Cartoons.
6:15 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. A series about two doctors.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety and a cultural program.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Azimuts. A documentary program.

JEUDI

6:00 — Montagne. This program takes place in Val d'Aillivier in the Swiss mountains.
6:30 — Maguy. A comedy series about Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — International Circus.

VENREDI

5:30 — Le Tatoué. A French film.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusion. A documentary program.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): A family member will be very cooperative this week. If you come under fire at place of employment, keep cool. Young people are willing to perform those tasks you would rather not undertake.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Although this week may lack last week's fast pace, you can expect good things to happen. A friend offers honest advice. Redouble your efforts to make money. Handle your own financial negotiations.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Your intuition is right on target where romance is concerned. Head that strong inner voice! Although a small gamble could pay off, if you wager too much, you are bound to lose.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): A domestic problem that occupies your thoughts this week should be solved as soon as possible. A face-to-face encounter may be necessary to set the record straight with your boss. Be tactful.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): The lack of a peaceful atmosphere may make concentration difficult this week. Deal with routine matters. Romance needs more time to grow. Events work in your favour.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Expect the unexpected this week. Your ability to perform when under pressure wins respect. Pace yourself to handle a heavy workload. Make intelligent concessions to your loved ones.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): A good week for travel. Postpone making any new moves concerning a financial agreement. A private matter can now be handled with great success. A one-on-one meeting will pay off handsomely.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Make sure you really understand a financial situation before attempting to change it. You will soon get a chance to better your circumstances.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): An associate's health could affect your workload. Changing your plans can be upsetting. Staying home is more appealing than going out this week. Use tact when making suggestions.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Put more energy into the work you are doing. Assistance could be available from an unexpected quarter. Try not to bottle up your emotions.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Innovative ideas lead you in an exciting new direction. Be sure to keep loved ones informed of your plans.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Your weekend plans have to be revised because of some event affecting your loved ones. Older relatives are inspired to resolve their differences. Family members draw closer together.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN tend to use the same words of affection with everyone they love. Others may mistake their approach for a line. However, they are very sincere. Gadgets and shortcuts will fascinate them. Parental guidance is important when these children select a career. They could decide to be a lawyer today, a doctor tomorrow and an engineer the next day!

The National Music Conservatory Noor Al Hussein Foundation

The French Cultural Centre present

Le DUO FLUTE et GUITARE de NICE

In concert

Monday, February 24, 1992 at 8:00 p.m.
at the Royal Cultural Centre

In the programme pieces by Beethoven,
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The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 661026
Babylon, Tel. 661322 Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663190
The French Cultural Centre, Tel. 637006
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Would You Believe.....

The Puerto Rico beach off the coast of the island drops to more than 38,000 feet deep. That's more than five miles down.

Twelve million immigrants passed through Ellis Island in the 60 years it operated as the first stop for new Americans.

Cardie is a member of the My Family.

At the end of the 19th regular season, Spiky Anderson was the only major-league baseball manager to win a World Series in both the American and National Leagues.

Health officials estimate there are still 12 million to 15 million cases of sprains worldwide, mostly in countries with poor medical facilities.

Solution



JORDAN BRIDGE

by Ghassan Ghanem

Heart Bids

Here is the hand I introduced to you last week. It was a heart problem. The hand that we played during the Cairo International Festival facing The Egyptian International players Amr El-Asqalani and Ahmed El-Asqalani.

♠ A J 2
♥ K 8 5 4
♦ A K 8 5
♣ J 4

♠ Q 8 5
♥ Q 10 9 7 6 2
♦ Q
♣ A 5

♠ 10 6 4 3
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ 10 9 7 6
♣ Q 8 7 3 2

(Ghanem) (Amr) (Marwan)
North East South
IN 2♦(1) Pass
Pass 3♥ Pass
Pass End

Hand 127. A typical Convention among Egyptian players.

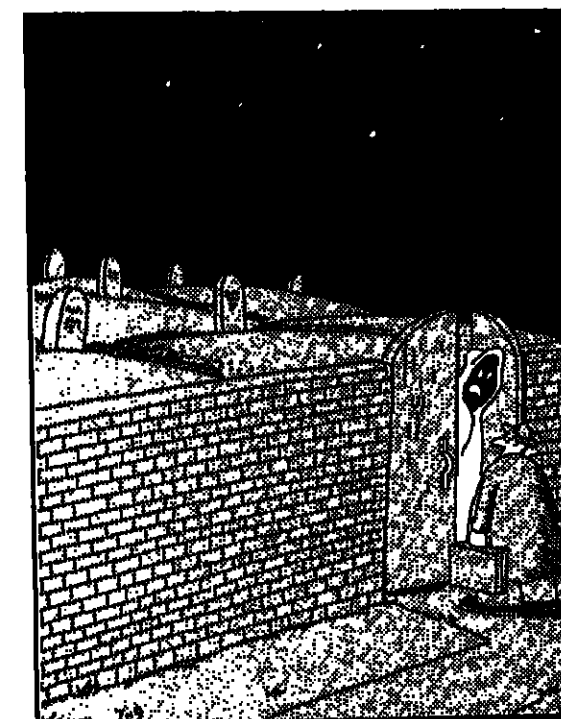
I am not convinced with all the heart bids, but who am I to question two of the best dozen of the Egyptian players. I believe that East should have bid a preemptive 3♥ instead of 2♥ to prevent South from using Lebenszhl convention. West, in his turn, should have deviated to 3♥ instead of 2♥ to show his near to opening hand. East's 3♥ is really strange, if he is bidding it any how and without any information from his Obligated partner, then why didn't he bid the 3♥ earlier? Now West gives East a stronger hand and bid the game. How right were both of them, the hand was very close to make ten tricks. I doubled out of dignity! How dare they bid a game after I opened IN! I led the ♠K followed by the ♠J. Declarer played high heart from dummy and over took it with the Ace to continue trumps. I won and played back my last club, any other return would have given a tenth trick and the contract! The declarer played a good club desperately but I ruffed ending declarer's hope. Watch What would have happened if any of my partner's tens was with any of the opponents, declarer would have made the contract for an absolute top. The hand yielded 127 match points out of the available 128 m.p. now you know how much the tens are devalued.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Listen. You want to be extinct? You want them to shoot and trap us into oblivion? ... We're supposed to be the animals, so let's get back out there and act like it!"



"Sorry ... we're dead."



"Deng, that gives me the creeps. ... I wish she'd hurry up and scoop that guy out."